

WASHINGTON – Congressman John Larson (CT-01) today applauded a new directive by President Obama that requires all federal agencies to switch to 100% advanced vehicles by 2015. Advanced vehicles include those that run on alternative fuels such as natural gas, as well as hybrid, electric and biofuel vehicles. The new Presidential directive is intended to help the nation reach the goal of reducing oil imports by 1/3 by 2025 and reinforces Larson's plan to expand the use of natural gas in the transportation sector.

"I want to applaud President Obama for once again showing terrific leadership in helping our country end its dangerous addiction to foreign oil," Congressman Larson said. "At a time when high gas prices are creating a heavy burden for American families and putting our economic recovery in jeopardy, we must look towards alternative fuels that are better for our environment and easier on our wallets, like natural gas. Requiring federal agencies to move away from gas powered vehicles compliments my work in the Congress to enact the NAT GAS Act, which will dramatically reduce our nation's dependency on foreign oil by incentivizing the use of natural gas vehicles. Currently, 69% of the oil we consume in the U.S. is for transportation, two-thirds of which we import from foreign nations. We simply can't afford to keep shipping our money to other countries to keep our cars on the road. I'm glad the President is making the government lead by example."

The NAT GAS Act enjoys wide bipartisan and bicameral support, with over 185 Democrats and Republicans in the House endorsing the bill, including the moderate Blue Dog Coalition. Additionally, the bill has the support of energy tycoon, T. Boone Pickens, who includes natural gas as part of the 'Pickens Plan.'

"Natural gas is affordable, abundant and American," Larson added, "it's cheaper than diesel fuel and we have enough of a supply in the United States to last more than 100 years. It's a great first step to wean ourselves off foreign oil."

In addition to the NAT GAS Act, Congressman Larson has also been an outspoken proponent of using Hydrogen Fuel Cells as an alternative to gasoline.

###